

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application.

Election of Species

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Species I, illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2; and

Species II, illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Species II, illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, without traverse.

Claims 6-13 are directed to the elected species.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, at least claim 1 is generic.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 9 and 11 have been amended to place them in better form for U.S. practice and to correct minor typographical and/or grammatical errors.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi, Registration No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

for By  (reg. # 40,419)
Terrell C. Birch
Registration No.: 19,382
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant